GAME OF DEMONS

A Portuguese Haunting in California

By Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

Three days ago, Ana S. contacted me with a troubling claim — she believed something had attached itself to her. For the past three months, Ana had been hearing unexplained banging on the walls of her Sacramento home. It wasn't just her. Her husband, Luis, said he felt a sudden burning sensation on his lower back. When he checked, he found an unexplained red mark. Ana traced it all back to their recent trip to Portugal to visit family.

A Game That Opened a Door

While staying with relatives, her niece had been playing a card game using a deck called Baralho Doppel – Demônios Da Goétia. Though it can be used as a standard deck for card games, this particular version includes imagery of demons from the Goetia — a type of European occult tradition known for summoning spirits.

Ana's niece, while playing the game with friends, had reportedly been invoking the Cucuy — a terrifying figure rooted in Portuguese and Spanish folklore. The creature is often described as a child-snatching boogeyman with shapeshifting abilities.

One night, Ana awoke to the sound of her niece yelling in her sleep: "Cucuy, Cucuy," followed by three desperate cries of "I'm sorry." The next morning, the girl said a demon who called himself Cucuy had appeared to her, terrifying her in a dreamlike state she swore felt real.

Ana became convinced that this entity had followed them back to Sacramento. Since their return, the house had taken on a heavy, uneasy atmosphere. She described cold spots that would suddenly appear in the hallway and a lingering sense of being watched.

An Unseen Force in the Closet

I brought psychic medium Wish Fire to assist in our team's investigation of Ana and Luis' home. She immediately picked up on a dark energy inside the home and was drawn to a specific closet, saying the presence was hiding there. The energy felt intelligent — like it was waiting, watching, and not yet finished with the family, according to Wish Fire.

I conducted an EVP session near the area and captured a distinct growling sound — our only piece of audio evidence from the visit. There were no pets in the home and no mechanical systems nearby that could explain the sound.

In response, I performed a Roman Catholic house blessing, followed by an aspersion baptism for both Ana and Luis. Wish Fire then completed a full smudging of the home and cleansed both clients. The atmosphere in the home felt lighter afterward, but we cautioned the couple to remain vigilant.

Ana later informed us that the card deck had been confiscated from her niece while they were still in Portugal. The family burned the deck in an effort to sever any lingering connection to the ritual.

We'll be staying in close contact with Ana and Luis to monitor how things unfold and determine whether further cleansing or intervention will be needed. ◆